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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week

2-20-1959

Bearden, R. D. (Dillard) Script

Howard Langfitt

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[Bearden]

CONTINUITY

OR Farm Family of the WeekDATE Feb. 20, 1959BY Howard LangfittTIME 12:25-1:00 p.m.

VIDEO

AUDIO

CAMERA ON LANGFITT

SLIDE FARM-1
FAMILYSLIDE FARM-2
HOUSE

I WANT TO SAY IN THE VERY BEGINNING THAT I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO HUMPHRIES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AGENT, MR. ELMO HILL, FOR HIS VERY WONDERFUL HELP IN SELECTING THIS FAMILY WHICH WE SALUTE TODAY AND FOR GOING WITH ME TO THEIR FARM TO HELP ME OBTAIN THE STORY WHICH I AM NOW GOING TO TELL. THIS IS THE STORY OF MR. AND MRS. R.D. BEARDEN AND THEIR THREE SONS WHO LIVE ON HIGHWAY 49W ABOUT TWO MILES SOUTHEAST OF ISOLA, MISSISSIPPI. OR TO LOCATE THEIR LAND FROM BELZONI, IT'S ABOUT 8 MILES NORTHWEST. DILLARD BEARDEN, AS HE IS CALLED BY ALL HIS FRIENDS, OWNS 455 ACRES OF LAND AND RENTS ANOTHER 800 ACRES. ON THIS LAND HE CARRIES OUT A COTTON, GRAIN, PASTURE AND LIVESTOCK PROGRAM. BOTH MR. AND MRS. DILLARD BEARDEN GREW UP IN ISOLA AND GRADUATED FROM ISOLA HIGH SCHOOL. AT THE TIME THEY WERE MARRIED IN 1938 DILLARD WAS FARMING WITH HIS FATHER. AFTER HIS MARRIAGE HE RENTED 40 ACRES OF LAND AND BEGAN FARMING FOR HIMSELF, RAISING COTTON, CORN, SOYBEANS AND HAY. IN 1941 HE BOUGHT HIS FIRST LAND...40 ACRES... AND RENTED ANOTHER 80 AND THEY MOVED ONTO THAT LAND AND LIVED IN A LITTLE HOUSE UNTIL THEY BUILT THIS HOME ON THEIR PRESENT LAND IN LATE 1948 AND MOVED INTO IT IN JANUARY OF 1949.

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-3
HOUSE

SLIDE FARM-4
COTTON GIN

SLIDE FARM-5
COTTON PICKER

IN 1945, WITH THREE SMALL CHILDREN, THE YOUNGEST ONLY FIVE WEEKS OLD DILLARD BEARDEN WAS DRAFTED INTO THE SERVICE OF HIS COUNTRY WHERE HE SERVED FOR ONE YEAR. DILLARD SAYS HE REALLY GOT STARTED FARMING WHEN HE CAME OUT OF SERVICE IN 1946. IT WAS IN THAT YEAR THAT, WITH THE HELP OF HIS FATHER HE TOOK HIS FIRST BIG STEP AND BOUGHT 320 ACRES OF LAND. HE LATER BOUGHT ANOTHER FARM AND TRADED IT TO HIS FATHER FOR HIS INTEREST IN THE 320. THEN IN THE FALL OF 1946 THEY BOUGHT THE 135 ACRES WHERE THIS BEAUTIFUL HOME SETS. UNTIL 1946 DILLARD FARMED WITH MULES. WHEN HE BEGAN HIS PROGRAM OF EXPANSION HE BOUGHT HIS FIRST TRACTOR...IT WAS A SMALL ONE BUT IT GAVE HIM THE POWER HE NEEDED TO GET STARTED, OF COURSE, SINCE DILLARD BEARDEN LIVES IN THE HEART OF THE RICH DELTA FARM COUNTRY IT IS NATURAL THAT HIS MAJOR CROP IS COTTON. AND OF COURSE, YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS A BAD TIME OF THE YEAR TO SHOW MUCH ABOUT A COTTON PROGRAM. HOWEVER, I CAN TELL YOU THAT HE IS ONE OF THE FOUNDERS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THIS COOPERATIVE COTTON GIN. I CAN TELL YOU THAT TODAY DILLARD BEARDEN IS A FULLY MECHANIZED COTTON PLANTER. THOUGH HE HAS 15 TENNANT FAMILIES, SOME OF WHOM SHARE CROP, HE OWNS AND USES THIS MECHANICAL COTTON

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-6
MACHINERY

SLIDE FARM-7
COTTON STUBBLE

SLIDE FARM-8
PLOWED FIELD

PICKER. BY AND LARGE HE LETS THE FAMILIES PICK ALL THE COTTON THEY CAN AND THEN HE FINISHES UP WITH THE PICKER. HE HAS 390 ACRES IN COTTON THIS YEAR ON THE CHOICE "A" COTTON PROGRAM. HIS YEARLY AVERAGE IS ABOUT A BALE AND A QUARTER TO THE ACRE. IN 1955, WHICH WAS A GOOD COTTON YEAR HE MADE BETTER THAN TWO BALES TO THE ACRE. DILLARD BEARDEN HAS SEVEN TRACTORS NOW AND ALL THE NECESSARY PLANTING AND CULTIVATING EQUIPMENT TO GO WITH THEM. YOU WILL NOTICE THAT SOME OF THEM ARE BUTANE POWERED FOR FUEL ECONOMY. YOU CAN ALSO SEE A COMBINE IN THE MACHINE SHED. HE USES IT TO HARVEST HIS 350 ACRE SOYBEAN CROP. HE HAS RAISED SOYBEANS FOR TEN YEARS OR MORE. THEY AVERAGE ABOUT 30 BUSHELS TO THE ACRE AND HE MARKETS THEM ALL FROM THE FIELD. GETTING BACK TO COTTON, THOUGHT, WE CAN SHOW YOU THAT DILLARD BEARDEN FOLLOWS RECOMMENDED FARMING PRACTICES. YOU CAN SEE THAT HE SHREDS HIS COTTON STALKS AFTER HARVEST TO MINIMIZE THE BOLL WEEVIL PROBLEM. HE LEAVES THEM JUST AS LITTLE WINTER COVER AS HE POSSIBLY CAN. WE CAN ALSO SHOW YOU THAT HE DEEP PLOWS HIS COTTON FIELDS IN THE FALL IN ORDER TO ALLOW BETTER MOISTURE PENETRATION WHICH WILL BE NEEDED THIS SUMMER TO SEE THE CROP THROUGH THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS.

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-9
OAT LAND

SLIDE FARM-10
MEN IN OATS

HE ALSO TESTS HIS SOIL AND FARMS HIS LAND ACCORD
IN TO A SOIL PLAN ON THE LAND, WORKING IT
ACCORDING TO ITS CAPABILITIES. HE FERTILIZES
ACCORDING TO NEEDS AND PUTS AT LEAST 100 UNITS
OF NITROGEN UNDER HIS COTTON. DILLARD BEARDEN
SAYS HE WILL ALWAYS RAISE COTTON, THE LORD
WILLING BUT HE WOULDN'T WANT IT ALL IN COTTON.
WE'LL ASK DILLARD MORE ABOUT HIS COTTON PROGRAM
IN A FEW MINUTES. HE ALSO PUTS OUT 250 ACRES IN
OATS EACH YEAR. HE HAS 90 HEAD OF CATTLE, 50
OF THEM BROOD COWS, AND HE GRAZES HIS OATS UNTIL
MARCH WHEN HE TAKES THE CATTLE OFF AND CARRIES
THE OATS ON TO HARVEST WHEN HE SAVES SOME FOR
SEED AND PUTS THE REST IN THE BOAN. WE WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO SHOW YOU THE LIVESTOCK EITHER BECAUSE
THEY WERE BACK ON A FARM WHICH WE COULDN'T REACH
THE OTHER DAY BECAUSE OF THE WET ROADS. DILLARD
FOLLOWS A COMMERCIAL COW AND CALF PROGRAM WITH
MOSTLY BLACK ANGUS, AND GETS ABOUT A 90% CALF
CROP. HE SELLS THE CALVES MILK FAT OFF THE COW.
BESIDES THE OATS WE SEEM HIM SHOWING COUNTY AGENT
ELMO HILL, MR. BEARDEN ALSO HAS 200 ACRES OF
PERMANENT PASTURE CONSISTING OF CLOVERS, PESCUE,
AND DALLIS GRASS AND COASTAL BERMUDA WHICH HE IS
PUTTING OUT NOW. HE HAS FIVE PASTURE AREAS AND

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-11

ROTATES HIS GRAZING. HE ALSO HAS 30 ACRES IN
LESPEDENZA FOR HAY. HE PUT UP 4,000 BALES LAST
YEAR. DILLARD FEEDS MOST OF IT AND SELLS ANY
SURPLUS HE MAY HAVE. HE USES THESE GRAIN BINS
FOR ON FARM STORAGE OF THE OATS HE PUTS IN THE
LOAN. THOSE ARE ONLY BRIEF HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
BEARDEN FARM PROGRAM. WE WILL LEARN MUCH MORE
AS WE TALK TO DILLARD IN A FEW MINUTES. IN THE

SLIDE FARM-12
FREEZER

HOMEMAKING END OF THIS STORY MRS. BEARDEN HAS A
SEASONAL HALF ACRE GARDEN AND FROM IT AND THEIR
MEAT SUPPLY SHE EACH YEAR FREEZES ABOUT 1,200
POUNDS OF FOOD FOR THE FAMILY FREEZER. SHE CANS
SUCH THINGS AS JAMS, JELLIES, PRESERVES AND
PICKLES IN JARS. MRS. BEARDEN SAYS SHE WOULD

SLIDE FARM-13
KITCHEN

RATHER WORK OUTSIDE BUT THE FAMILY IS QUICK TO
ACKNOWLEDGE THAT SHE IS AN EXCELLENT COOK, AND
AFTER EATING SOME OF HER PIE THE OTHER DAY I
HEARTILY AGREE. THE BEARDEN'S HAVE REMODELED
THEIR HOME SEVERAL TIMES SINCE IT WAS BUILT.

SLIDE FARM-14
KITCHEN

LAST YEAR THEY COMPLETELY REMODELED THE KITCHEN
AND PUT IN ALL THE BEAUTIFUL KITCHEN CABINETS
YOU SEE IN THIS PICTURE. MRS. BEARDEN HAS HER
TELEVISION SET IN THE KITCHEN WHERE SHE CAN
ENJOY IT TO THE FULLEST. ON ONE END OF THE

SLIDE FARM-15
DINING ROOM

KITCHEN IS THIS MOST ATTRACTIVE DINNING ROOM.
HERE WE SEE MRS. BEARDEN AND THE TWO YOUNGER

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-16
RICHARD

BOYS, SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD RICHARD AND FOURTEEN YEAR OLD BOB. MRS. BEARDEN'S LIFE IS CENTERED AROUND HER HUSBAND AND HER THREE FINE SONS. THESE BOYS HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH TO THE FAMILY LIVING. THEY ARE ALL PFA MEMBERS WITH PRIMARY PROJECTS OF COTTON, AS WOULD BE EXPECTED.

SLIDE FARM-17
BEDSTEAD

ALL OF THE BOYS HAVE CONTRIBUTED SOMETHING TO THE HOME FROM THEIR SHOP WORK IN THEIR VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE CLASS IN HIGH SCHOOL. RICHARD MADE THIS BEAUTIFUL CEDAR SEWING MACHINE CABINET.

SLIDE FARM-18
BOY & CAR

HE HAS ALSO MADE A CEDAR BEDSTEAD SIMILAR TO THIS ONE AND IS MAKING A CEDAR CHEST THIS YEAR. THIS BEDSTEAD WAS MADE BY THEIR OLDEST SON, 19 YEAR OLD GERALD WHO IS A SOPHOMORE AT MISSISSIPPI STATE THIS YEAR. IN FACT, GERALD WAS JUST READY TO LEAVE TO GO BACK TO STATE WHEN WE VISITED THE BEARDEN FARM LAST MONDAY, SO WE SNAPPED THIS PICTURE OF HIM JUST BEFORE HE GOT INTO THE CAR

SLIDE FARM-19
TWO MEN

TO BE ON HIS WAY. DILLARD BEARDEN SAYS HE DEPENDS HEAVILY ON HIS COUNTY AGENT'S ADVICE AND TRIES TO FOLLOW IT. HIS FUTURE PLANS INCLUDE EXPANSION OF HIS LIVESTOCK PROGRAM TO 100 BROOD COWS FOR A BETTER BALANCE IN HIS OVERALL FARM PROGRAM. AS HE AND COUNTY AGENT ELMO HILL TALKED DILLARD SAID THERE IS ONE MAN WHOM I WANT TO GIVE MUCH CREDIT FOR WHAT SUCCESS WE HAVE HAD...

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-20
CHURCHSLIDE FARM-21
FAMILY

CAMERA ON FAMILY

AND THAT IS MY BANKER, MR. PAUL TOWNSEND WHO HAS BEEN MY MAINSTAY WITH NEEDED FINANCING AND GOOD SOUND ADVICE. MR. AND MRS. DILLARD BEARDEN AND THEIR SONS BELONG TO THE ISOLA BAPTIST CHURCH WHERE THEY ATTEND REGULARLY AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WORK AND WORSHIP OF THEIR CHURCH. THIS IS A WONDERFUL FAMILY THAT HAS TRULY MADE GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE YEARS SINCE WORLD WAR TWO. HERE THEY ARE ALL TOGETHER...SINCE GERALD IS UNABLE TO LEAVE STATE TO BE WITH US TODAY I WANTED TO BE SURE YOU GOT TO SEE THE WHOLE FAMILY TOGETHER IN THEIR OWN HOME. BY THE WAY, I MENTIONED THE WOOD WORK DONE BY GERALD AND RICHARD....BOB IS ALSO MAKING A BEDSIDE CABINET IN SCHOOL THIS YEAR. THIS IS HIS FIRST YEAR AS AN FFA MEMBER. MRS. BEARDEN IS PRESIDENT OF THE ISOLA HOME DEMONSTRATION CLUB. SHE HAS BEEN A MEMBER FOR 8 YEARS AND SERVED AS CLUB SECRETARY-TREASURER FOR THREE YEARS. SHE IS ALSO ACTIVE IN THE P.T.A. AND THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY. DILLARD, IN ADDITION TO BEING PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THE GIN, IS A TRUSTEE OF THE SCHOOL AND MEMBER OF THE COUNTY CATTLEMANS ASSOCIATION. HE IS A PAST A.S.C. COMMITTEEMAN AND FORMER MEMBER OF THE LEVY BOARD. RICHARD AND BOB BOTH LIKE HORSEBACK RIDING AND SPORTS.

W L B T

CONTINUITY

OR _____

DATE _____

Y _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

I COULD TELL YOU MUCH MORE ABOUT THIS FINE FAMILY
BUT I'D RATHER YOU HEARD IT FROM THEM, SO LET'S
CHAT WITH THEM A BIT NOW.

1. DILLARD, WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST CROP?
2. HOW COMPLETE IS YOUR INSECT CONTROL PROGRAM?
3. DO YOU PLANT ANY CORN?
4. HAVE YOU DONE ANY LAND CLEARING?
5. HAVE YOU HAD ANY DRAINAGE PROBLEMS?
6. HOW FAST DO YOU PLAN TO EXPAND YOUR LIVESTOCK?
7. WHAT IS YOUR WATER SUPPLY FOR CATTLE?
8. WHAT KIND OF SHAPE WAS THE LAND IN WHEN YOU
BOUGHT IT?
9. MRS. BEARDEN, WHAT HAS CHANGED MOST IN
HOMEMAKING SINCE YOU MARRIED?
10. WHAT HAS HELPED YOU MOST IN THE PROGRAM?
11. DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES? FISHING?
12. RICHARD, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS AFTER HIGH
SCHOOL?
13. WHAT SPORTS DO YOU PLAY?
14. BOB, WHAT SPORTS DO YOU LIKE?
15. DO YOU LIKE THE FARM?
16. ELMO, WHAT HAVE I LEFT OUT THAT SHOULD BE
TOLD?